

MONROE DOCTRINE DEAD.

United States Government Finds It Not Operative.

At the meeting of the Cabinet in Washington yesterday the Venezuelan case and the Monroe doctrine came up for general discussion. Secretary Gresham and Attorney-General Olney had been investigating the doctrine for three weeks. They found it a dead letter so far as the acquiescence in it of foreign governments was concerned. It was also discovered that, although avowed by all the Presidents since Monroe, the doctrine had never been endorsed by Congress. Henry Clay in 1821, General Burdette in 1879 and Representative Crapo in 1880 had respectively brought forward a resolution to affirm the doctrine, but in no case had Congress come to a vote on the question.

In the case of Venezuela the administration is in a quandary as to how far the United States should go in backing up the controversy of that South American republic. If Great Britain is willing to submit a considerable part of the dispute to arbitration, and the result should be rejected by Venezuela, it is difficult to see how the United States can espouse the cause of the little republic.

It is the principle of arbitration for which the United States contends, and not the Venezuelan view of the merits of the case. The Venezuelan authorities have contrived to spread the impression here that they are ready to go to war with England, even at the risk of losing not only the territory involved in the disputes, but more besides. The officials of the Washington Government do not believe that any such heroic measures are necessary in order to protect Venezuela's honor. Great Britain doubtless has a colorable claim to a part of the disputed region, and the remainder, according to assurance given by Ambassador Bayard, may have its ownership adjusted by an arbitration tribunal.

It is understood that Secretary Gresham's efforts are directed toward inducing Venezuela to renew diplomatic relations with England. If he shall succeed in this, one great obstacle to a peaceful settlement will have been removed.

In view of the latest news from Venezuela, which indicates that the peppy little republic will fight before she will acknowledge England's right to 4000 square miles of territory now in dispute, statistics of the fighting force of Venezuela are interesting. An effort to get an estimate of the standing army of Venezuela at the War Department was unsuccessful. It is so small that there is no available record of it. As to the navy, Lloyd's official list of the navies of the world has this entry: Venezuela, one iron steamer, Augusta, built in 1881. If there is to be a fight, it will furnish the unique spectacle of the largest navy in the world against the smallest. It is supposed, however, that Venezuela's threats are all air bubbles and that the thing she really wants is the protection of the United States in settling her dispute with England.

Mayor Grant of Fairbault, Minn., denies that the concession of land he and his associates obtained in 1884 about the mouth of the Orinoco is involved in the dispute between Great Britain and Venezuela. A small corner had been settled on by the English, but it was the least valuable part of the land. The concession includes valuable iron mines, great forests of mahogany, rosewood and an island at the mouth of the Orinoco in which there are valuable asphalt wells. It is also believed that there is gold in paying quantities.

A New Steamer.

The Pacific Mail Company has purchased another steamer of 5000 tons. It was bought in England and is newly built. Its name was the Canterbury, but it has been changed by the Pacific Mail to the Aztec, and is now on the way to the Pacific Coast to be put in service there at once. It has been greatly needed for a long time, but the company waited before buying it until it had accumulated a surplus of earnings to apply toward the purchase.

The Sabbath Association of St. Louis have begun a crusade against theatrical dives and stores doing business on Sunday. They make personal visitations to the premises of the offenders.

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